pace with the march of time but has, in certain respects, advanced ahead of the times. There are no relics in this State of either mediaeval feudalism or unrestricted autocracy of a single individual. The constitution under which the administration of this State is carried on is a well-defined one, and it is an open book for any one to read. It is possible to pick holes in that constitution. It is possible to point out provisions in that constitution which are defective and which may lead to deadlocks. Constitutions, however, are to be judged not so much by the written word but by the character of the people and the spirit of those entrusted with the task of working the constitution. In inaugurating the new constitution a year ago, His Highness the Maharaja said "It is my genuine desire to share my authority with my people that prompted me to take this step." These are memorable words. The ambition of the people themselves cannot be summed up in better language. The political ambition of the people of this State is to share the burden with their Ruler, and if they continue to show the same spirit of good will and co-operation that they have evinced so far, there is not the slightest doubt that in the fulness of time they will realise all their legitimate ambitions and aspirations.

CONDOLENCE MOTIONS.

1. Demise of Rao Bahadur P. Narayana Menon.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Sir, I beg leave of the House to move a resolution of condolence on the sad demise of Mr. P. Narayana Menon, who was for some time Diwan of the State. Mr. Narayana Menon though belonging to British Malabar, has been so closely connected with our State by various ties that he was practically looked upon as a citizen of our State. He married in this State from a most ancient and respectable family, and the best part of his life was devoted to service in British India. He rose by various stages to the position of Secretary to the Madras Government and later on as a Presidency Magistrate of the premier city of Madras. After retirement he came and settled down here and he had the signal good fortune to have the confidence of His Highness the Maharaja, so much so, at a critical period, he was appointed Diwan of the State. Though the rules were made and other spade-work of this Council was done by Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, the inauguration was conducted by Mr. Narayana Menon. And after the introduction of this reform and the establishment of this Council, he retired from service. After retirement he lived in Trichur and in the fulness of fame and in the fulness of time, he passed away from our midst. It may be that all his contributions may not meet

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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with general approval, but I have not the least doubt in my mind that he, according to his own light, did the very best he can to serve His Highness the Maharaja and the people of this State. I am sure that the people will be at one with me in passing unanimously a condolence motion on the death of Mr. Narayana Menon, one of our past Diwans.

*Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Pazhayannur):* I whole-heartedly associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Minister. In addition to what he said, I wish to state the following. I am sure his memory will ever remain, because he was the pioneer in bringing forth the present Maharaja's College and also our Harbour. He had also the lion's share, as the Minister said, in inaugurating this Council I once more whole-heartedly associate myself with all that has been said about Mr. Narayana Menon here. May, his soul rest in peace.'

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* On behalf of the Party I represent, I whole-heartedly endorse every statement that has been made by the Hon'ble Minister and Mr. T. K. Nayar. Personally I know very little about the late Mr. Narayana Menon. There is one one thing that may be said to his credit. At a time when there was communal strife, and very probably at its height, it was his interference that has practically brought the matter to a close. It is noteworthy that communal amity had prevailed ever since he occupied the responsible post of the Diwan of the State.

Mr. President: Hon'ble members, I wish to associate myself with what has been said about the late Mr. Narayana Menon, by the Hon'ble Minister and by the other hon'ble members of this Council. It was my privilege to have come into contact with the late Mr. Narayana Menon nearly 20 years ago, and ever since that day when I first met him, I have had the greatest regard for him and he has had certain affection regarding me. He is one of the most independent men that I have come across—a man of sterling character—and I had great admiration for those qualities that he possessed. It is indeed a great loss to this State that he took leave of us. It is my duty to convey to the members of his family the message of condolence of this House at his death.

The Motion was passed, nem con all members standing.

2. Demise of Mr. P. Damodara Menon.

*Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, It is my melancholy task again to move another condolence motion

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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